Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a first natural language;

converting means for converting the first natural language inputted by the input means into a plurality of representations within the same first natural language, the plurality of representations replacing postpositional words of the first natural language;

confirmation means for confirming at least one representation converted by the converting means as being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language;

re-converting means for re-converting the confirmed at least one representation to a re-converted representation within the same first natural language by exchanging word order of the at least one representation;

processing means for translating the re-converted representation to a second natural language; and

output means for outputting the second natural language processed by the processing means.

Claims 2 to 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the processing means carries out processing by template.

Claims 5 to 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the converting means further converts the first natural language inputted by the input means into third language.

Claim 8 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the converting means converts plural representations into single representation with respect to representation of natural language inputted by the input means.

Claim 9 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the converting means converts polysemous representation into plural univocal representations with respect to representation of natural language inputted by the input means.

Claim 10 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the converting means carries out conversion by at least one of merger (integration), division, deletion, replacement and exchange of order with respect to representation of natural language inputted by the input means.

Claim 11 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the input means inputs natural language by voice.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 11,

wherein the confirmation means confirms, only once, natural language inputted by voice to the input means.

Claim 13 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in clam 1,

wherein the input means inputs natural language by character.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13,

wherein the confirmation means confirms, only once, natural language inputted by character at the input means.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as forth in claim 1,

wherein the first natural language is inputted to the input means, the converting means converts first language inputted via the input means into a second representation of the second language and converts it into a first representation of the first language having one-to-one correspondence with respect to the second representation, and the confirmation means carries out confirmation by using the first representation.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 15,

wherein the processing means translates the first natural language into the second language on the basis of conversion at the converting means and confirmation at the confirmation means, and the output means outputs the second language translated by the processing means.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a natural language;

a plurality of processing means for implementing processing of the natural language, at least one processing means configured to convert the first natural language inputted into a plurality of representations of the natural language;

a plurality of confirmation means for confirming result of processing with respect to the natural language, at least one confirmation means configured to confirm at least one representation being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language;

a plurality of re-converting means for re-converting the plurality of confirmed representations into a plurality of re-converted representations of the natural language by exchanging word order within the plurality of representations; and

output means for outputting the processed natural language,

wherein a second processing means for converting the natural language and a second confirmation means for confirming the results of the second processing means are provided at a stage preceding a first processing means to thereby carry out execution in advance of confirmation of the first processing means to delete confirmation of result of the first processing means.

Claim 18 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 17,

wherein processing by the first processing means is machine translation processing, kana-kanji conversion processing, information retrieval processing by natural language, or representation conversion processing by natural language.

Claim 19 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 17,

wherein processing by the second processing means is machine translation processing, kana-kanji conversion processing, information retrieval processing by natural language, or representation conversion processing by natural language.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 17,

further comprising, at a stage preceding the second processing means, a third processing means and third confirmation means for confirming result thereof, wherein the third confirmation means is coupled to the portion after the second or subsequent processing means, or wherein the third confirmation means is merged or integrated into the second confirmation means or confirmation means of the stage succeeding thereto to thereby carry out postponement of confirmation.

Claim 21 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 20,

wherein means in which the second confirmation means and the third confirmation means are merged or integrated gives result of processing as numeric value to present the numeric value.

Claim 22 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 20,

wherein the first processing means carries out machine translation and the third processing means carries out voice recognition.

Claim 23 (original): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 20, comprising:

voice recognition processing means for carrying out voice recognition of natural language inputted to the input means, recognition result confirmation means for confirming recognition result at the voice recognition processing means, machine translation means for implementing machine translation to the result confirmed at the recognition result confirmation means, and translation result confirmation means for confirming translation result at the machine translation means,

wherein representation conversion processing means for converting representation and representation conversion confirming means for confirming result of the conversion thereof are supplemented at the preceding stage of the machine translation processing means to thereby carry out execution in advance of processing by the translation result confirmation means to omit the translation result confirming means of the stage succeeding to the machine translation processing means.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 23,

wherein postponement of processing by the recognition result confirming means which merges or integrates the recognition result confirmation result with the representation conversion result confirming means existing at the stage succeeding thereto is carried out.

Claims 25 to 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): A natural language processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting a first natural language;

a conversion step of converting the first natural language inputted at the input step into a plurality of representations within the same language, wherein the first natural language inputted at the input step is further converted into a second representation of a second language, and converted into a first representation of the first natural language having one-to-one correspondence with respect to the second representation, the plurality of at least another representation replacing postpositional words of the first natural language;

a confirmation step confirming the first natural language converted at the conversion step using the first representation as being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language;

a re-converting step for re-converting the confirmed first natural language converted at the confirmation step to a re-converted representation within the same first natural language by exchanging word order of the first natural language;

a processing step of implementing processing to the first natural language re-converted at the reconverting step; and

an output step of outputting the first natural language processed at the natural language processing step on a display section.

Claims 28 to 29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (previously presented): A natural language processing method as set forth in claim 27,

wherein, at the processing step, a procedure is taken to translate the first language into the second language on the basis of conversion at the conversion step and confirmation at the confirmation step; and at the output step, a procedure is taken to output the second language translated at the processing step.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A natural language processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting a natural language;

a plurality of processing steps for implementing processing to the natural language, at least one processing step converting the first natural language inputted into a plurality of representations of the natural language;

a plurality of confirmation steps for confirming a result of processing with respect to the natural language, at least one confirmation step for confirming at least one representation closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language;

a plurality of re-converting steps for re-converting the plurality of confirmed representations into a plurality of re-converted representations of the natural language by exchanging word order within the plurality of representations; and

an output step of outputting the processed natural language on a display section;

wherein a second processing step of converting the natural language and a second confirmation step of confirming result of the second processing step are provided at a stage preceding a first processing step to thereby carry out execution in advance of confirmation of the first processing step to delete confirmation of result of the first processing step.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A natural language processing method as set forth in claim 31,

further comprising, at a stage preceding the second processing step, a third processing step and a third confirmation step of confirming result thereof,

wherein the third confirmation step is executed after the second or subsequent processing step, or is alternately merged into the second confirmation step at the subsequent stage or confirmation step at the stage of subsequent thereto to thereby carry out postponement of confirmation.

Claim 33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the re-converted representation has the same meaning as the at least one representation.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 17, wherein the plurality of re-converted representations have the same meaning as the plurality of representations.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A natural language processing method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the first natural language re-converted at the reconverting step has the same meaning as the first natural language converted at the conversion step.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A natural language processing method as set forth in claim 31, wherein the plurality of re-converted representations have the same meaning as the plurality of representations.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A natural language processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a first natural language;

converting means for converting the first natural language into a plurality of representations of a second natural language, wherein each of the plurality of representations of the second natural language has a one-to-one correspondence with a representation of a third natural language;

confirmation means for confirming at least one representation of the second natural language that is closest in meaning to the first natural language;

processing means for translating the at least one representation of the second natural language to the third natural language; and

outputting means for outputting the third natural language,

wherein the first natural language, the second natural language, and the third natural language are different languages.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A natural language processing method comprising:

inputting a first natural language;

converting the first natural language into a plurality of representations of a second natural language, wherein each of the plurality of representations of the second natural language has a one-to-one correspondence with a representation of a third natural language;

confirming at least one representation of the second natural language that is closest in meaning to the first natural language;

translating the at least one representation of the second natural language to the third natural language; and

outputting the third natural language on a display section,

wherein the first natural language, the second natural language, and the third natural language are different languages.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A natural language processing apparatus as set forth in claim 38, wherein the at least one representation of the second natural language that is translated into the third natural language is at least one sentence.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A natural language processing method as set forth in claim 39, wherein the at least one representation of the second natural language that is translated into the third natural language is at least one sentence.